

# Biomarkers for Acute Ischemic Stroke: a New Era with Promise for Diagnostics

## Abstract

Worldwide, stroke is regarded as the second leading cause of death and first cause of neurological dysfunction. The only chemical treatment for ischemic stroke that has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration is recombinant tissue plasminogen activator. Until 2015, when multiple trials demonstrated the benefit of mechanical thrombectomy during the first six hours and recent trials demonstrated that mechanical thrombectomy can be beneficial up to 24 hours if the patients meet certain criteria, including the presence of magnetic resonance imaging/computed tomography perfusion mismatch, which allows for better selectivity and higher recruitment of eligible stroke patients, it was the only standard of care with a very narrow therapeutic window. However, not all stroke centers offer computed tomography or magnetic resonance imaging perfusion. Thus, doctors need other simple and accessible demonstrative instruments to choose stroke patients qualified for mechanical thrombectomy. Additionally, stroke the executives is as yet trying for doctors, especially those managing patients with "awaken" stroke. Multiple molecular pathways influenced by inflammatory markers and post-transcriptional activity mediate ischemic stroke-related brain tissue damage and subsequent pathological processes. Inflammatory and cardiac brain-derived biomarkers (serum matrix metalloproteinase, thioredoxin, neuronal and glial markers, and troponin proteins) as well as various biomarkers, including the emerging roles of microRNAs, are suggested by a significant number of published works. In this review, we look at the growing body of evidence regarding the diagnostic biomarkers for acute ischemic stroke that could help doctor's better treat stroke patients. The roles of the various emerging markers and micro-RNAs, which have the potential to be of high diagnostic value in stroke patients, may be revealed by our review. In fact, novel biomarkers that can stratify diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment are in great demand in the stroke and traumatic brain injury fields.

**Keywords:** Ischemic stroke • Tissue plasminogen activator • Computed tomography • Magnetic resonance imaging perfusion

## Introduction

The brain is most sensitive to hypoxia. Unexpected interferences of cerebral blood dissemination lead to mind tissue hardship from oxygen, glucose, and different supplements, causing cerebrum dysfunction as well as other body works that are under the regulation of the cerebral ischemic districts, known as ischemic stroke or cerebral ischemia. Ischemic stroke is predominantly caused by an embolus or clots in a significant cerebral vein, which impairs the blood flow to the cerebrum. This will result in "infarction," which is the death and necrosis of brain tissue. A hypo perfused region encompassing the infarct center is called "penumbra". Synapses in the obscuration get blood flow from securities that are excessively low to keep up with electric activity but adequate to keep it practical. These cells will die and amplify the initial damage if the blood supply is not restored within a few hours. Penumbra is the target for salvaging the blood supply through chemical and mechanical reperfusion. However, rebuilding of blood flow to these anoxic cells could result in additional harm, known as reperfusion injury. Serial brain magnetic resonance imaging has shown that approximately one million neuronal cells per minute die from ischemia, destroying billion synapses in human brains damaged by middle cerebral

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artery ischemic strokes. Depending on where and how much brain tissue is damaged, this damage could result in extremely high mortality and morbidity rates [1].

Despite the fact that ischemic stroke accounts for 80% of cases that are reported, hemorrhagic stroke has also been identified. Because of the devastating effects of stroke on human function and mortality, clinicians need sensitive and specific diagnostic tools in order to provide quick and effective care. The objective of this paper is to survey distributed work in order to recognize potential biomarkers that could help in the early conclusion and expectation of the beginning of Intense Ischemic Stroke (AIS) [2].

## Biomarker for Stroke

### Diagnostic biomarkers

The typical work-up for patients with thought stroke is history taking, zeroing in on the time at which neurological symptoms or decay showed up. When available, computed tomographic angiography/perfusion or magnetic resonance angiography/perfusion must be performed in addition to physical and neurological examinations, such as the National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale, radiological imaging, prothrombin time/international normalized ratio, complete blood count, electrocardiogram, and troponin measurement, in order to determine the extent of salvageable tissues and select good candidates for mechanical thrombectomy. This assessment should be improved patient outcome. The fast and objective diagnosis of stroke type in acute settings enables treatment with rtPA within the narrow therapeutic window and performing mechanical thrombectomy when applicable, thereby improving overall patient outcome and neurological status. The primary goals of the initial stroke assessment are to rule out intracranial hemorrhage. Awaken strokes, which normally happen during rest, represent an indicative and remedial predicament. Wake up stroke accounts for about 25% of stroke cases. In these cases, rtPA therapy cannot be used because of the risk of hemorrhage because its therapeutic window may have passed. Additionally, computed tomographic angiography/perfusion and magnetic resonance angiography/perfusion are unavailable for a variety of reasons;

Patients with new ischemic strokes can be misdiagnosed with the help of simple, accessible, and specific diagnostic tools that can help determine which patients are good candidates for reperfusion therapy without causing additional damage [3].

### Glial and neuronal markers

S100 is a glial protein that has a place with the calcium binding protein family. It is released into the blood upon glial and Schwann cell infarction. S100 serum concentration was significantly higher in stroke patients than in healthy controls, according to a systematic review. He likewise revealed areas of strength for an among S100 levels and stroke seriousness. However, the fact that its concentration does not peak until 1–5 days after the event reduces the diagnostic value of S100 for early AIS intervention. GFAP is a brain-specific intermediate filament protein that is involved in the structure of astroglial cells. The plasma does not contain glial fibrillary acidic protein until necrosis and cytolysis occur, such as in an ischemic stroke or intracranial hemorrhage. GFAP plasma level rises significantly in ischemic stroke and more slowly in intracranial hemorrhage. This is similar to how the previously discussed S100 marker behaves, where the gradual neuronal damage in AIS causes plasma levels to peak after 48–78 hours. As one more limit of GFAP as a potential diagnostic marker, the impact of other clinical variables on plasma levels, for example, renal capability and contaminations were not thought about [4].

Neurofilament Light Chain (NfL) is a major component of the neuronal cytoskeleton and plays an important role in axonal and dendritic branching, as well as growth. Ubiquitin C-Terminal Hydrolase (UCH-L1), a cytoplasmic enzyme of neurons that is associated with the brain's self repair mechanism after injury, was shown in this study to be significantly elevated in patients with AIS were able to use the brand-new ultrasensitive single molecule array assay to find NfL in blood. Serum levels of neurofilament light chain were found to be 3.5 times higher in AIS patients than in patients with transient ischemic attack. The creator likewise detailed that serum NfL levels were the most noteworthy with AIS because of huge vessel occlusion or cardio embolism. Finally, neuronal and glial markers seem to be

more unambiguous in ID of cerebral ischemia and might actually be used in the future for analytic purposes in AIS. Neuro filament Light Chain (NfL) is a major component of the neuronal cytoskeleton and plays an important role in axonal and dendritic branching, as well as growth. Ubiquitin C-terminal Hydrolase (UCH-L1), a cytoplasmic enzyme of neurons that is associated with the brain's self repair mechanism after injury, was shown in this study to be significantly elevated in patients with AIS, were able to use the brand-new ultrasensitive single molecule array assay to find NfL in blood. Neuro fiber light chain serum levels were demonstrated to be 3.5-overlap higher in patients with AIS contrasted with that with transient ischemic assault [5].

#### Micro RNA as a diagnostic marker

It has been reported that hypertension is the number one risk factor for stroke formation due to its effects on vessel elasticity, making them easy to rupture and resulting in hemorrhagic stroke. In one of the studies conducted on rats with hypertension, it was shown that miRNA-155 levels were reduced in these rats. In addition, it was observed that miRNA-155 plays a role in vessel relaxation as it targets nitric oxide synthase and angiotensin II receptors. A sequence of mi RNAs was found to be expressed in the brainstem of hypertensive rats. Similarly, a sequence of mi RNAs was found to be up regulated in human endothelium of vasculature that was thought to play a role in hypertension. Alterations in mi RNAs were found to occur in atherosclerotic vessel walls and serum, implying their involvement in the formation and progression of atherosclerosis. For instance, mi after a stroke, diabetic patients' serum levels of miRNA-144 were found to be low. In diabetic mice, it was established that neural stem cell levels of miRNA-200a and miRNA-466a were down regulated [6, 7].

#### Stroke biomarkers' biokinetics and accessibility

The Cerebrum Injury Pointer was endorsed by FDA in 2018 as the first blood test to assess blackout and prevent unnecessary imaging. The Brain Trauma Indicator measures UCH-L1 and GFAP, which are released by brain cells 12 hours after an injury and can be measured in as little as 3 hours, predicting whether intracranial lesions are present. Similarly,

physicians determine whether imaging is required. What's more, one more examine that actions the degrees of GFAP, neuron-explicit enolase, S100B, and TNF-ahas been favorable to presented by an examination group in Arizona [8]. Depending on the clinical context and patient presentation, the assay is able to detect the levels of these biomarkers within 90 seconds in the blood, predicting intracranial injury that could be caused by trauma or stroke [9, 10].

#### Conclusion

The only chemical treatment for ischemic stroke that has been approved by the FDA is recombinant tissue protein activator, which has a narrow therapeutic window of 3.5 hours. Mechanical thrombectomy, on the other hand, has been shown to be effective up to 6–24 hours. A lot of research has been done to come up with an objective diagnostic method that would help doctors use the best treatment, especially if the time of onset is unknown. Blood-based markers of inflammation, neuroglia, and mi RNA have been identified as promising diagnostic tools for ischemic stroke. However, further studies are required as a portion of this promising bio-marker research is currently at a beginning phase. Future trials may benefit from developing a battery of these potential diagnostic markers, such as an individualized ELISA kit, that can predict the time of stroke onset and select appropriate treatment candidates.

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